

HELPERS NEEDED: HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT HOW YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY WORKS AND WHAT WE HAVE IN THE COLLECTION

Our plea in the last newsletter had no response, so we are trying again. If you have an hour or two to spare once a week or once a month or even just occasionally could you help us with one of the following tasks? These tasks are currently undertaken by your already very busy committee members.

Excursion organiser
Merchandise Manager
Scrap book keeper
Helping with the cataloguing of our collection
Helping record people's oral histories
Display and exhibition assistant
Checking the collection we hold in storage
Cleaning the Museum
Minor maintenance or repairs

You would not be "thrown in at the deep end" as we are here to assist. Some things could even be done in the comfort of your own home. Can you help us share the load please? Call Diane **5989 2219** if you would like to find out more.

NEW MEMBER

Mr. Tony Jarich

We hope you enjoy your membership with us

Mornington & District Historical Society Inc. A00041916W
PO Box 71 Mornington 3931
Museum: Corner Main Street and Esplanade
Open 1.30 - 4.30 Sundays or by appointment

MORNINGTON
& DISTRICT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade Mornington 3931

NEWSLETTER

February 2013

Newsletter No. 260

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The sculpture was finally unveiled on 6th December. Unfortunately the mount was unstable and it has been removed temporarily. A pity it was over Christmas! We have had many people worried that it might have been vandalised. The community has fallen in love with our little girl in such a short time which is wonderful. It is due to be returned soon.



Australia Day. This year we had a much lower-key book-stall, which proved successful all the same. We were really trying to promote our own publications. Val with a couple of helpers conducted two walking tours around the Esplanade precinct in conjunction with our newly printed booklet. (We will officially launch this at our next coffee morning - see diary dates for details). We had many visitors to the Museum during the day. Many thanks to your hard working committee and others for giving up several hours to add to this community event.

Australia Day Awards. Your committee nominated our Picnic in the Park as the community event category and also your president for the Shire's Citizen of the Year. We now have two handsome certificates for these nominations.

Heritage Walk Booklet. We gratefully acknowledge the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council for their grant of \$1000 towards the production of this.

Diane White

FROM THE ARCHIVES . . .

HISTORY OF MORNINGTON POST OFFICE - 150 this year
We thought you might be interested in this letter of 1973. Miss Carroll must have written to find out about the history. This was the response:

Dear Miss Carroll,

Further to my letter of 18/1/1973, I can supply some information concerning Post Office development in Mornington.

A Post Office was established in the area on 21/5/1856 under the name of the Schnapper Point Post Office; it had non official status and was managed by William Armstrong probably operating in the conjunction of a general store. The annual allowance of 20 Pounds (\$40) was paid to Mr. Armstrong for his postal duties during the first year. This sum was based on a percentage of postal business transacted.

On 5/10/1859 the management of the Schnapper Point Post Office passed from William Armstrong to James Robinson. The office seems to have been raised to official status on 1/10/1861 with the appointment of Phillip King Tucker as Postmaster and telephone manager. The annual salary was then 250 pounds (\$500). It seems probable that the office was moved to new premises at that time.

The earliest list of mail routes for the district show that in 1862, mail was conveyed to and from Cheltenham and Tootgarook by way of Frankston, Schnapper Point and Dromana two days a week by coach. Telegraph facilities were provided at Schnapper Point as from the 22/3/1861.

With the raising of the official status plans were prepared for the construction of an official Post Office building. It seems that work was commenced on this building during 1862 and was completed in 1863. Until the completion of this building the Post Office was probably operating from rented premises. On the 16/8/1864 the name of the Post Office was changed from Schnapper Point to Mornington. Signed by D. Baker Post Office Historical Officer.

Phillip Tucker was Postmaster and the telegraph manager as the telephone was not available in 1861.

To be continued.....next newsletter.

MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Dates for Your Diary 2013

Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~mornhsoc

Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203

ABN 7515 1057 105

Visitors warmly welcomed

26TH FEB. BUS TRIP 9 am Bus stop outside Mechanics Inst. ANAESTHETISTS MUSEUM and PORTABLE IRON HOUSES

Hear about the historic St. Kilda Road house *Ulimaroa* which is the home of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. This will be followed by a visit to their Museum. It is run by retired specialists in this field of medicine. We will be given an entertaining talk on how we are put to sleep (for operations!) Should be fun.

We will then have lunch at a cafe in South Melbourne on our way to see the National Trust's **portable iron houses**.

Bus and admissions **\$35 pp.** (lunch at your own expense).

Book with Janet **9787 8685**

TUES. 12TH MARCH 10.30 a.m. COST \$5

Meet at Matthew Flinders' statue in the Park for Official launch of our new Heritage Walk brochure. We will have a look at the newly planted Avenue of Honour then cross back to the Museum for morning tea. The Park is 150 this year.

SAT 16TH MARCH Scanning Day at the Museum

If you have any historic documents you would like scanned for preservation and making copies, this is an opportunity to have this professionally done. **FREE**

Of course, if any of these are of the Mornington district, we would love to have copies for our archives.

Bookings essential. Please contact Val Wilson on 5975 2958 or email: vjwilson2@bigpond.com

TUES. 9TH APRIL 10.30 am COST \$5

St. Mark's Friendship Room, Barkly St. Mornington

Lambis Englezos AM. THE FOUND GRAVES AT FROMELLES.

Lambis will show us his research into the Australians who went missing in the Battle of Fromelles. Lambis is an amateur historian and an ex-teacher. You may have read about this in the newspapers, but come and hear how this discovery came about. Something to think about for Anzac Day.

FOR SALE:

Our latest First Day Cover is the Christmas Edition- \$8

MORNINGTON IN THE WAKE OF FLINDERS - by Leslie Moorhead \$29

OUR BOYS AT THE FRONT - *The Mornington Peninsula at War 1914-1918 from the pages of The Peninsula Post* \$39.95 this includes DVD

BOON WURRUNG *People of the Port Phillip District* - by Richard Cotter \$22

MT. MARTHA LANDS AND PEOPLE - by Winty Calder \$40

THE PELICAN REEF DISASTER - reprint of Charles Allchin's booklet \$5

MORNINGTON HERITAGE WALK - \$10 (our latest publication)

MORNINGTON FIRE BRIGADE HISTORY \$5

TEA TOWELS \$10

HERITAGE MATTERS

Glenbank. We had some reasonably good news about the proposed redevelopment of the Andrew Kerr Centre. MPSC have received revised plans from the developers which keeps the house and gives reasonable view from Barkly Street. There is a trade-off though which is to allow some three-storey development. To do this a change to the planning scheme for the site is needed. As the three-storey structure is in one small area of the site the opinion is that it should be allowed. This could be win – win, the developers get their way and the town retains an historic building.

Heritage Review. A meeting of the Steering Committee took place on January 30. This was scheduled for Simon Lloyd to report on changes to the properties listed for review. Twelve places and five precincts had their recommendation varied. The reasons are not yet available for general publication as the revision will not be on public display until one week before the 18th March Council meeting.

Football Disaster Memorial. Unfortunately our elation at the prospect of the Memorial being listed on the Victorian Heritage Register was a bit premature. We have received notice that the Heritage Council has refused the submission. We understand there is no process of appeal apart from directly to the Minister the thought of which makes me shudder. However, we should approach the Heritage Council for their reasons for the refusal.

Planning Scheme Amendment item C135. Item R1018 in this amendment lists various properties in Main Street Mornington and adjacent streets. The proposal is for a heritage overlay on the land. This I think would create a precinct. The danger is that individual places would not have or could lose their individual HO allowing a loophole for any developer. We have experience of this situation with 1 Queen Street. The situation needs to be monitored. All the properties can be viewed on the Shire website under “Have your say – Planning scheme amendments – C135”.

Derek Smith

HELEN BROAD HISTORY AWARDS.

These are three more awards we gave out at the end of last year. We offer an encouragement award for history students at each of the six secondary schools in our area. The student is chosen by the school. Our award consists of a certificate which explains our role in the community and Helen Broad’s varied interests in history plus a book voucher for \$50.00.

The Peninsula School - Brittany Buchanan
Mornington Secondary College - Patrick Thomas
Mt. Eliza Secondary College - Christina Beres



Janet Groves with Christina Beres from Mt. Eliza Secondary College